



NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 2, 2015

Wrong-Way Driver Sentenced to 23 Years to Life for 14 Freeway Crash

A Tujunga man was sentenced today to 23 years to life in state prison after being convicted of murder for a 2013 DUI wrong-way crash on the Antelope Valley Freeway, the Los Angeles County District Attorney announced.

Bradford Pate, 40, pleaded no contest on July 13 to two counts each of murder and gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and one count each of DUI causing injury and driving with a blood alcohol content of over .08% causing injury.

On June 22, 2013, shortly before 3:30 a.m., Pate drove his pickup truck southbound in the northbound lanes of the freeway, prosecutors said. The defendant's truck crashed head-on into a car driven by Manard Giles, 77, of Quartz Hill, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

A passenger in Giles' car, Mattie Lee Ferguson, 60, of Lancaster, died later, according to evidence presented in court. A second passenger in the victim's vehicle, was seriously injured and remained trapped in the car until rescuers could later free him, prosecutors said.

The case was handled by Deputy District Attorneys Mykka Piantanida and Brian Chang.

The California Highway Patrol investigated the incident.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.